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length 2000 to w. l. 6000 has been obtained, and eye observations made on many of them to the limit of the red rays. These are in conjunction with the solar spectrum, and the original negatives are on about the scale of ANGSTROM's map. The negatives are each nineteen inches long. A micrometer has been constructed measuring wave lengths direct to $\frac{1}{50000}$ part. "During the year there have been eighty-one students in the department of Physics, twenty of whom were graduates."

—From the Annual Report of the President of the Johns Hopkins University (1890).

RECENT IMPORTANT PUBLICATIONS.

Miss AGNES M. CLERKE: *The System of the Stars*; pp. 424, six plates and many wood cuts.

Dr. J. L. E. DREYER: *TYCHO BRAHE*—a picture of scientific life and work in the XVI century; pp. 405, five plates and several cuts.

H. H. TURNER and A. A. COMMON: *The Companion to the Observatory for 1891*. (See *Publications A. S. P.*, vol. II, p. 26).

W. T. LYNN: *Celestial Motions*—a handy book of Astronomy. Sixth edition.

ARTHUR COTTAM: *Charts of the Constellations*. (Probably the edition in book-form, 12x15 inches, will be found most generally useful to amateurs).

E. W. MAUNDER (Editor): *The Journal of the British Astronomical Association* (monthly). (Vol. I begins with October, 1890).

J. SCHEINER: *Die Spectralanalyse der Gestirne*; pp. 474, two plates, seventy-four cuts.

R. VON KÖVESLIGETHY: *Grundzüge einer theoretischen Spektralanalyse*; pp. 327, plates.

C. E. DUTTON: *The Charleston Earthquake of 1886*; pp. 185, and many cuts.

A HURRICANE IN AN OBSERVATORY AND WHAT IT DID THERE!

[Extract from *Madras Observations*, vol. 4, 1836-37 by T. G. TAYLOR, pp. 2-3.]*

—“These numbers hold good up to the 30th October, 1836, when the wires were broken—in consequence of the shutters on the roof of the observatory being blown open by the violence of the wind, whereby the instrument was exposed for some minutes to very heavy rain,—having failed during this time to secure the shutter.

* * * * I was compelled to take the transit off its axis, and

* This extract was kindly copied for us by W. M. C. WINLOCK, Esq., of the Smithsonian Institution. E. S. H.

deposit it in the safest place I could find; the wind which was blowing from the north, had burst open the northern door, as well as the southern one immediately opposite; hence there appeared to be no other choice—than that of placing it upon the table which stood against the most secure part of the northern wall of the Observatory; here, supported by books and a green baize cover, I felt that nothing short of the building falling in, would have in the least degree endangered it; * * * * At this moment the southern doors of the observatory situated opposite to the northern wall where the transit instrument had been deposited—were literally blown to pieces; whereby one of the pieces (about eight feet by six inches by two inches) which had been blown across the room, had fallen edgewise upon the head of the micrometer attached to the transit instrument, and very neatly cut it off, without at all disturbing the other parts of the telescope. Other injuries had been sustained—by the books having been disturbed, whereby the object end of the telescope had fallen upon a pile of books from a height of about two feet, whence two slight indentations had been sustained, one on each side of the tube, at ten or twelve inches above the object end of the telescope; and the tangent screw of the setting circle had been hit; but it was evident that the axis had not in the slightest degree, been injured; a circumstance of which I have since well assured myself from observation. The first fact that struck my notice on examining the instrument was, that the focal length of the object-glass had apparently altered; or rather, that the telescope had become shorter; for, in order to render the principal focus coincident with the wires, it was necessary to remove the object-glass, 07 [*sic*] of an inch from the position it had hitherto occupied in the cell into which it was secured; this remedied (which I was enabled to do by interposing three pieces of brass of this thickness between the bottom of the cell and the frame carrying the object-glass) it only remained that the micrometer screw should be replaced;” * * * *

ARTIFICIAL EARTHQUAKE OF JANUARY 31, 1891.

On January 30 we learned, through a newspaper paragraph, that on January 31 there was to be an explosion of 3000 lbs. of dynamite in San Francisco, for the purpose of leveling a rocky hill in the suburbs. As it was possible that the shock might be detected at Mt. Hamilton, preparations were made to note the time of its arrival by Mr. SCHAEBERLE, Mr. BARNARD and myself. Mr. SCHAEBERLE observed the surface of a basin of quicksilver with the